

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T CAIRO 15294

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRALI RESPONSE AND US PUBLIC POSTURE

REF: STATE 155014

1. RECEIVED REFTEL MIDNIGHT TONIGHT. WAS ABLE CONTACT VP MUBARAK SHORTLY AFTERWARDS ON SECURE PHONE TO MAKE POINTS CITED PARA 4 REFTEL. ALSO TOL HIM OF PUBLIC POSTURE WE ARE TAKING.

2. MUBARAK SAID THAT HE HAD JUST HEARD BROADCAST OF ISRAELI RESPONSES. HE MADE NO BONES ABOUT THEIR DISAPPOINTING NATURE. HE HAD INSTRUCTED MFA TO ISSUE A STATEMENT EXPRESSING DISAPPOINTMENT IN ISRAELI RESPONSES, BUT ALSO INDICATING GOE INTENDS CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ABOUT WHAT NEXT STEPS SHOULD BE. (WE ARE ATTEMPTING GET EXACT MFA TEXT, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY BE AVAILBLE ON FBIS). MUBARAK SAID THAT, GIVEN UNSATISFACTORY NATURE OR ISRAELI RESPONSES WHICH HE ASSUMED EVEN WE RECOGNIZED, GOE COULD NOT FOR DOMESTIC AND ARAB RESONS AVOID EXPRESSING ITS DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT HOPED STATEMENT STILL MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS.

3. I EMPHASIZED TO MUBARAK THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO
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PROCEEDING WITH SCENARIO WE HAD EARLIER OUTLINED TO EGYPTIANS. TOLD HIM WE ARE GOING BACK TO DAYAN TO QUERY ANSWERS AND HOPE TO BE BACK TO EGYPTIANS WITH SOME REPLIES BY WEDNESDAY. MEANTIME, HOWEVER, IT ESSENTIAL THAT EGYPTIAN PUBLIC COMMENT REMAIN RESTRAINED AND AVOID GIVING IMPRESSION GOE CONSIDERS ISRAELI RESPONSES HAVE SLAMMED DOOR ON RESUMPTION OF TALKS. MUBARAK SAID GOE WILL REMAIN RESTRAINED, BUT NOTED IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO PREVENT

EGYPTIAN PRESS FROM EXPRESSING ITS VIEWS. WITH A LAUGH, HE REMINDED ME THAT I HAD LAST WEEK SPOKEN TO SADAT ABOUT PRESS FREEDOM. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD GOE PROBLEM, BUT URGED THAT HE, KAMEL AND ISSAWI DO UTMOST RESTRAIN PRESS THESE NEXT FEW DAYS. MUBARAK AGREED THAT GOE WILL DO WHAT IT CAN.

4. MUBARAK ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT THE COMMITMENT HE HAD MADE TO ME EARLIER IN THE EVENING, IN BEHALF OF SADAT, STILL STANDS. SADAT IS STILL PREPARED HAVE KAMEL ATTEND MEET IN LONDON JUNE 25-28 ON CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT INVITATION WILL BE ISSUED BY PRESIDENT CARTER. I AGAIN ASSURED HIM ANY INVITATION WILL COME FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, BUT NOTED THAT IN VIEW ISRAELI REPLY EXACT SCHEDULING ILL HAVE TO DEPEND UPON OUR FURTHER TALKS WITH ISRAELIS. MUBARAK INDICATED KAMEL, WHO HAD ALSO HEARD BROADCAST OF ISRAELI REPLIES, IS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HIS ATTENDING SUCH MEETING, BUT TOLD ME I SHOULD NOT ARGUE THE POINT WITH THE FONMIN. SADAT, HE REITERATED, WILL STAND BY HIS COMMITMENT THAT KAMEL WILL ATTEND. HE IS DOING SO, MUBARAK NOTED, IN ORDER TO MEET OUR POINT THAT WE MUST BE ABLE TO POSITION OURSELVES TO PUT FORWARD OUR SUGGESTIONS IN THE EVENT THE TALKS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL, WHICH HE WAS SURE WOULD BE THE CASE.

5. HOPE TO SEE KAMEL SOMETIME TOMORROW. WILL THEREAFTER SEND MY MORE CONSIDERED VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED. CLEARLY, HOWEVER, ISRAELIS HAVE GIVEN US PRECIOUS LITTLE TO WORK WITH, WHICH IN EFFECT MEANS EGYPTIANS WILL HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO CONFIDENCE THAT
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RESUMPTION OF DIRECT TALKS WILL BRING ANYTHING MEANINGFUL. THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THEM WILL BE LARGELY PROFORMA SO THAT THEY CAN SAY TO US THAT THEY HAVE DONE WHAT WE ASKED, AGAINST THEIR BETTER JUDGMENT, AND THEREAFTER THEY WILL LOOK TO US FINALLY TO COME FORWARD WITH OUR SUGGESTIONS, ONCE WE AND THEY HAVE GENERALLY AGREED UPON WHAT THESE SUGGESTIONS SHOULD BE. EILTS

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